

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claim has been canceled and its subject matter incorporated into claims 1 and 16. Claims 1-6, 16 and 17 are currently pending in this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and other applications.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 18.

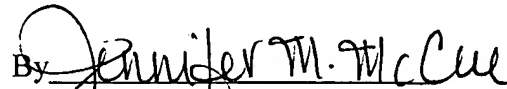
Claims 1-6, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCollum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,948,755) ("McCollum") in view of admitted prior art and either Koizumi et al. (JP 2003097290A) ("Koizumi '290") or Koizumi et al. (JP 2003090227A) ("Koizumi '227") and admitted prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 16 are allowable over the cited combination. Claims 2-6 and 17 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-6, 16 and 17 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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